

<p>Co-chomhairle Togail Ionmhas Coimhearsnachd</p> <p>Freagairt bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig</p> <p>19 Giblean 2023</p>	<p>Community Wealth Building Consultation</p> <p>Response from Bòrd na Gàidhlig</p> <p>19 April 2022</p>
<p>Stèidhichte fo Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005, 's e buidheann poblach neo-roinneil de Riaghaltas na h-Alba a th' ann am Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Is e a' phrìomh bhuidheann ann an Alba air a bheil dleastanas gus leasachadh Gàidhlig a chur air adhart agus gus comhairle a thoirt do Mhinistearan na h-Alba mu chùisean Gàidhlig.</p> <p>'S e amas a' Phlana Cànanain Nàiseanta Ghàidhlig 2018-23¹ gun tèid "a' Ghàidhlig a chleachdadh nas trice, le barrachd dhaoine agus ann an raon nas fharsainge de shuidheachaidhean". Bheirear seo gu buil le bhith a' cuimseachadh air:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cur am meud cleachdadh na Gàidhlig. • Cur am meud ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig. • Cur air adhart deagh ìomhaigh den Ghàidhlig. <p>Bheirear an cleachdadh a bharrachd seo den chànan gu bhith, gu ìre, le bhith a' toirt am buil nam buannachdan eacanomaigeach a bhios a' Ghàidhlig a' toirt do dh'Alba. Tachraidh sin tro bhith a' cleachdadh na Gàidhlig barrachd mar sho-mhaoin eaconamach. 'S e ar n-amas gum faicear is gun cluinnear a' Ghàidhlig gu làitheil air feadh na h-Alba, air dhòigh 's gun tèid aithneachadh gu farsaing gu bheil i aig cridhe beatha na h-Alba agus na stòras nàiseanta.</p> <p>Thathar a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig air feadh na h-Alba. Tha mu 50% de luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a' fuireach sa Ghàidhealtachd agus sna h-Eileanan, agus càch air feadh na dùthcha. A rèir Cunntas-sluaigh 2011, bha sgilean</p>	<p>Established under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, Bòrd na Gàidhlig is an executive non-departmental public body of the Scottish Government. It is the principal public body in Scotland responsible for promoting Gaelic development and providing advice to the Scottish Ministers on Gaelic issues.</p> <p>The aim of the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23⁴ is "that Gaelic is used more often, by more people and in a wider range of situations". This will be achieved by focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the use of Gaelic. • Increasing the learning of Gaelic. • Promoting a positive image of Gaelic. <p>This greater use of the language will, in part, be achieved through fully realising the social and economic benefits that Gaelic brings to Scotland. Our aim is that Gaelic is seen and heard on a daily basis across Scotland, such that it is widely recognised as an integral part of Scottish life and a national asset.</p> <p>Gaelic is spoken across Scotland. Around 50% of Gaelic speakers live in the Highlands and Islands with the remainder in the rest of the country. At the 2011 Census 87,100 people in Scotland had</p>

¹ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BnG-NGLP-18-23.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BnG-NGLP-18-23.pdf>

<p>Gàidhlig aig 87,100 daoine (mu 1.7% den àireamh-shluaigh), agus 57,600 dhiubh a b' urrainn Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn. Tha iarrtas a' sìor fhàs airson cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig le buannachdan foghlaim, eaconamach is sòisealta co-cheangailte riutha.</p>	<p>Gaelic skills (around 1.7% of the population), of which 57,600 were Gaelic speakers. There is a growing demand for Gaelic language and culture with related educational, economic and social benefits.</p>
<p>Tha Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig (FtMG) a' leudachadh air feadh na h-Alba. Tha e a-nis ri fhaighinn ann an còrr is dàrna leth nan 32 ùghdarrasan ionadail ann an Alba. Thòisich Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann an 1985 le 14 sgoilearan sa bhun-sgoil. A-nis tha còrr is 5,600 sgoilear san roinn thar foghlaim Thràth-bhliadhnaichean, Bun-sgoile is Àrd-sgoile. Gus coinneachadh ri fàs leantainneach san iarrtas bidh feum air tasgadh ann an sgoiltean agus tidsearan.</p>	<p>Gaelic Medium Education is expanding across Scotland. It is now available in over half of Scotland's 32 local authorities. Gaelic Medium Education began in 1985 with 14 primary pupils. There are now more than 5,600 pupils in the sector across Early Years, Primary and Secondary education. Meeting continuing growth in demand will require investment in schools and teachers.</p>
<p>Tha an t-iarrtas airson Gàidhlig ionnsachadh follaiseach san àrdachadh mhòr de dhaoine a tha a' gabhail ris an app/làrach-lìn ionnsachadh cànan Duolingo. Tha mu 1.5 millean neach air tòiseachadh air Gàidhlig na h-Alba ionnsachadh air an app bho thòisich an cùrsa o chionn trì bliadhna. Tha a' mhòr-chuid (71%) bho thaobh a-muigh na RA, le 36% anns na Stàitean Aonaichte a-mhàin.</p>	<p>The demand for learning Gaelic is evident in the huge uptake of the Duolingo language learning app/website. Some 1.5 million people have started learning Gaelic on the app since the course launched over three years ago. The majority (71%) are from outside the UK, with 36% in the United States alone.</p>
<p>Tha cur air bhog goireas craolaidh agus teagaisg air-loidhne SpeakGaelic san t-Sultain 2021 cuideachd air cur gu mòr ri goireasan do dh'inbich a tha airson a dhol an sàs sa Ghàidhlig agus an cànan ionnsachadh.</p>	<p>The launch of SpeakGaelic in October 2021 has also greatly contributed to resources for adults who want to engage with and learn the language. It has seen around 400,000 learners since its launch.</p>
<p>Fhuair "Suirbhidh Beachdan Sòisealta na h-Alba 2021: Beachdan Poball na h-Alba air a' Ghàidhlig", gu bheil, an coimeas ri 2012:</p>	<p>The "Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2021: Public Attitudes to Gaelic in Scotland"⁵ found that since 2012:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A' cho-chuid a tha ag ràdh gun urrainn dhaibh co-dhiù corra fhacal Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn air dùblachadh bho 15% gu 30%. • Gu bheil a' cho-chuid a tha ag ràdh gun tuig iad co-dhiù beagan Gàidhlig air a dhol am meud bho 25% gu 41%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proportion who say they can speak at least the odd word of Gaelic has doubled from 15% to 30%. • The proportion who say they can understand at least a little Gaelic has increased from 25% to 41%.
<p>A bharrachd air sin, tha 79% de dhaoine a' smaointinn gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig an dàrna cuid cudromach no glè chudromach do dhualchas cultarach na h-Alba.</p>	<p>Further, 79% of people think Gaelic is either very or fairly important to Scotland's cultural heritage.</p>

⁵ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/03.SSA-2021-Public-attitudes-to-Gaelic-in-Scotland-Main-report.pdf>



Tha sinn a' cur fàilte air aithris a' phàipeir cho-chomhairleachaidh gur e CWB "dòigh a tha air a dhealbhaidh agus dèiligeadh ri dùbhlain eaconamach a th' air a bhith ann o chionn fhada agus eaconamaidhean roinneil agus ionadail na h-Alba ath-dhealbhaidh". Tha sinn cuideachd a' cur fàilte air gu bheil e "ag amas air a' bhuidhe a chur am meud a th' aig coimhearsnachdan air an eaconamaidh agus a' dèanamh cinnteach gum faigh coimhearsnachdan tuilleadh de na buannachdan bhon ionmhas a tha iad a' cuideachadh a thogail".

Tha sinn a' freagairt na co-chomhairle seo a chionn 's gu bheil comas obrachaidh na Gàidhlig a' crochadh air seasmachd nan coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig: gu sònraichte an fheadhainn ann an sgìrean eileanach agus dùthchail air a' Ghàidhealtachd is anns na h-Eileanan.

Mar a tha am Plana Cànan Nàiseanta Gàidhlig 2018-2023 ag ràdh, "tha eaconamaidh fhallain, gu h-àraidh ann an coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig sna h-eileanan is sna sgìrean dùthchail, fìor chudromach dhan Ghàidhlig san àm ri teachd". Tha am Plana Cànan Nàiseanta Gàidhlig cuideachd ag ràdh gum "feumar cuideam sònraichte a chur air Gàidhlig a ghleidheadh is a neartachadh" sna coimhearsnachdan sin "far a bheil i fhathast an ìre mhath làidir agus na ciad chànan do chuid mhath den t-sluagh".

Aig Cunntas 2011 bha beagan sgìlean Gàidhlig aig mu 61% de dhaoine aois 3 no nas sine anns na h-Eileanan Siar. Tha sin an coimeas ri dìreach 1.7% airson sluagh na h-Alba air fad. Ann an cuid de na sgìrean as iomallaiche bha na h-àireamhan mòran na b' àirde. Mar eisimpleir, 82% ann an Èirisgeigh agus mu 80% ann an Sgalpaigh. Bha na h-àireamhan cuideachd an ìre mhath àrd ann am pàirtean eile den Ghàidhealtachd is na h-Eileanan. Mar eisimpleir, mu 45% ann an Tiriodh agus 40% ann an Ratharsair.

Tha dùbhlain mòra sòiseo-eaconamach mu choinneamh mòran de na sgìrean seo. Mar eisimpleir:

We welcome the consultation paper's statement that CWB "is an approach designed to tackle long-standing economic challenges and transform Scotland's local and regional economies". We also welcome that it is "focused on growing the influence communities have on the economy and ensuring communities receive more of the benefits from the wealth they help to generate".

We are responding to this consultation because the viability of the Gaelic language rests on viable Gaelic-speaking communities: particularly those in the islands and rural communities in the Highlands and Islands.

As the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-2023 states "a healthy economy, particularly in island and rural Gaelic-speaking communities, is vital to the future of Gaelic". It also states that "a particular emphasis must be given to maintaining and strengthening Gaelic" in those communities "where it remains relatively strong and is the first language for a sizeable proportion of the people".

At the 2011 Census some 61% of those aged 3 or above in Eilean Siar (Outer Hebrides) had some skills in Gaelic. That compares to just 1.7% for the Scottish population as a whole. In some of the more remote areas of Eilean Siar the figures were much higher. For example, 82% in Eriskay and around 80% in Scalpay. The figures were also relatively high in other parts of the Highlands and Islands. For example, around 45% in Tiree and 40% in Raasay.

Many of these areas face significant socio-economic challenges. For example:



<p><i>Cosgais bith-beò a tha gu math àrd.</i> Tha rannsachadh ann an 2016 air² sealltainn gu bheil ìre bith-beò iomchaidh as lugha ann an Alba dhùthchail iomallach feumach air eadar deicheadh agus trian a bharrachd de chosg taigheadais na ann am pàirtean bailteil na RA.</p> <p><i>Glusadan slugh-thomhais a bheir droch bhuaidh.</i> Mar eisimpleir, tha staitistigean bho Chlàran Nàiseanta na h-Alba a’ nochdadh crìonadh ann an àireamh-sluaigh gach cuid anns na Hearadh agus ann an Uibhist, agus slugh a tha an ìre mhath sean agus a’ fàs nas sine aig reat nas luaithe na chithear air a’ Ghàidhealtachd is na h-Eileanan agus ann an Alba air fad.</p> <p><i>Tuarastal nas ìsle.</i> Tha Suirbhidh Bhliadhnail 2022 air Uairean is Tuarastail a’ sealltainn gu bheil an tuarastal cuibheasach seachdaineach làn-ùine anns na h-Eileanan Siar aig 88% den ìre cuibheasach airson na h-Alba.</p> <p>Bidh cùisean eile a’ cur ris na dùbhlain seo. Mar eisimpleir, gainnead thaighean aig prìs ruigsinneach do luchd-còmhnaidh a tha ann mar-thà agus dhaibhsan a tha ag iarraidh a ghluasad gu sgìre a ghabhail cothroman obrach.</p> <p>Mar a tha Plana Nàiseanta nan Eilean³ ag aithneachadh, tha “dàimh dà-thaobhach eadar cànan is coimhearsnachd - tha Gàidhlig cudromach do na coimhearsnachdan eileanach far a bheil i ga bruidhinn, ach mar an ceudna, tha na coimhearsnachdan eileanach cudromach a thaobh slàinte na Gàidhlig san àm ri teachd”. Feumaidh cànan soirbheachail coimhearsnachdan a tha soirbheachail.</p>	<p><i>Relatively high cost of living.</i> Research⁶ in 2016 showed that a minimum acceptable standard of living in remote rural Scotland typically requires between a tenth and a third more household spending than in urban parts of the UK.</p> <p><i>Negative population trends.</i> For example, statistics from the National Records of Scotland indicate that both Harris and Uist have seen falling populations and ones that are relatively old and aging at a faster rate than in the Highlands and Islands and Scotland.</p> <p><i>Lower wages.</i> The 2022 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings shows the average full-time weekly wage in Eilean Siar was 88% of the Scottish average.</p> <p>Other issues contribute to these challenges. For example, lack of affordable housing for existing residents and for those looking to move into an area to take up employment opportunities.</p> <p>As the National Islands Plan⁷ acknowledges there is “a two-way relationship between language and community – Gaelic is important to the island communities where it is spoken, but equally the island communities where it is spoken are important to the health and future of the Gaelic language”. A thriving Gaelic language requires thriving communities.</p>
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² <https://www.hie.co.uk/media/6441/aplusminimumplusincomeplusstandardplusforplusremotepusruralplusscotlandplus-plusappluspolicyplusupdateplus2016.pdf>

³ https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2019/12/national-plan-scotlands-islands/documents/national-islands-plan-plana-naiseanta-nan-eilean/national-islands-plan-plana-naiseanta-nan-eilean/govscot%3Adocument/_plana-naiseanta-nan-eilean.pdf

⁶ <https://www.hie.co.uk/media/6441/aplusminimumplusincomeplusstandardplusforplusremotepusruralplusscotlandplus-plusappluspolicyplusupdateplus2016.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2019/12/national-plan-scotlands-islands/documents/national-islands-plan-plana-naiseanta-nan-eilean/national-islands-plan-plana-naiseanta-nan-eilean/govscot%3Adocument/national-islands-plan-plana-naiseanta-nan-eilean.pdf>



<p>Faodaidh Togail Ionmhas Coimhearsnachd:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cuideachadh gus mothachadh a thoirt do chànan agus cultar na Gàidhlig agus a luach a chur air adhart dhan choimhearsnachd nas fharsainghe. Mar eisimpleir, dh'fhaodadh iomairtean Togail Ionmhas Coimhearsnachd taic a thoirt do leasachadh turasachd, foghlam agus meadhanan na Gàidhlig. - Cuideachadh gus faireachadh làidir de choimhearsnachd agus dearbh-aithne a thogail, a dh'fhaodas a bhith na bhrosnachaidh do dhaoine Gàidhlig a h-ionnsachadh agus a cleachdadh. Mar eisimpleir, dh'fhaodadh iomairtean Togail Ionmhas Coimhearsnachd taic a thoirt do leasachadh lìonraidhean sòisealta, fèisean, agus tachartasan Gàidhlig. - Cuideachadh gus ionnsachadh agus cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a chur air adhart le bhith a' toirt chothroman seachad do dhaoine gus an cànan ionnsachadh ann an dòigh nàdarra agus bhrioghmhor. Mar eisimpleir, dh'fhaodadh iomairtean Togail Ionmhas Coimhearsnachd taic a thoirt do leasachadh gnìomhachasan, buidhnean coimhearsnachd, agus gnìomhachdan cultarail na Gàidhlig. <p>Tha sinn a' creidsinn gum faodadh Togail Ionmhas Coimhearsnachd a bhith na inneal cumhachdach airson taic a chumail ri seasmachd na Gàidhlig. Tha sinn a' cur ìmpidh air Riaghaltas na h-Alba beachdachadh air mar a tha na feumalachdan agus comas coimhearsnachdan na Gàidhlig air an filleadh a-staigh agus air an dèanamh follaiseach ann an Togail Ionmhas Coimhearsnachd.</p>	<p>Community Wealth Building can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Help to raise awareness of the Gaelic language and culture and promote its value to the wider community. For example, Community Wealth Building initiatives could support the development of Gaelic-language tourism, education, and media. - Help to build a strong sense of community and identity, which can be a powerful motivator for people to learn and use the Gaelic language. For example, Community Wealth Building initiatives could support the development of Gaelic-language social networks, festivals, and events. - Help to promote Gaelic language learning and use by providing opportunities for people to learn the language in a natural and meaningful way. For example, Community Wealth Building initiatives could support the development of Gaelic-language businesses, community groups, and cultural activities. <p>We believe that Community Wealth Building can be a powerful tool for supporting the sustainability of the Gaelic language. We urge the Scottish Government to consider how the needs and potential of Gaelic-speaking communities are integrated and made evident in Community Wealth Building.</p>
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